

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215856
ORIGIN OC-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /004 R

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P 090043Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY 4152

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215856

FOR FRDCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 2678 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LONDON MAPUTO PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 03 SEP 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2678

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH ZA

SUBJECT: CURFEW DECLARED IN LUSAKA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ZAMBIA RADIO THIS AFTERNOON ANNOUNCED IMPOSITION
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF A CURFEW FROM 8 PM TO 5 AM FOR
THE NEXT FOUR DAYS UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6. PERSONS
NEEDING TO ACCOMPLISH ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE REQUIRED
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TO CARRY IDENTIFICATION. LIGHTS ARE TO BE EXTINGUISHED
DURING THE CURFEW. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. LIGHTS WENT OUT IN THE CITY LAST NIGHT AT ABOUT
7 PM. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THE FOREIGN

MINISTER INDICATED THAT THIS WAS RELATED TO THE CURFEW.
(SEPTTEL) ONE STORY AROUND TOWN IS THAT THERE WAS A SUSPICION
OF RHODESIAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVERHEAD. THE LIGHTS
WERE TURNED BACK ON ABOUT TEN MINUTES LATER.

3. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONNECTED
THE CURFEW WITH THE THREAT FROM RHODESIA. HE COMPLAINED
THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME ZAMBIA HAD BEEN ATTACKED FROM THE
AIR AT FIERA A FEW DAYS AGO, NAPALM HAD BEEN USED WITH THREE
PEOPLE INJURED AND THREE KILLED. THE FEIRA ATTACK BORE
OUT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S WARNING ON SUNDAY AUGUST 28 THAT
RHODESIAN AIR ATTACKS COULD BE EXPECTED. WHILE HE MAY HAVE
INFORMATION OF HIS OWN WHICH MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE
CREDIBILITY, IT SEEMS FAR FETCHED TO SAY THE
LEAST THAT THE RHODESIANS WOULD MOUNT AN AIR ATTACK ON LUSAKA.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED ZAMBIA'S WILLINGNESS TO TURN
TO EXTERNAL SOURCES FOR SUPPORT. HE SAID THE SITUATION WAS
DETERIORATING AND ZAMBIA WAS BEING FORCED TO THE WALL. IT
WAS, HE SAID, READY TO RETALIATE. IN OUR VIEW, THE IMPOSITION
OF CURFEW MAY NOT BE UNRELATED TO THE VISIT BEGINNING
TOMORROW OF NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO. A STATE DINNER
HAS BEEN SCHEDULED IN HIS HONOR FOR SUNDAY NIGHT. WE UNDER-
STAND IT WILL BE CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED AS A LUNCHEON
IN THE COPPERBELT. DRAMATIZATION OF THE SITUATION
COULD BE INTENDED TO IMPRESS OBASANJO WITH ITS SERIOUSNESS
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MILITARY HELP FROM HIM.
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4. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO LIMIT ANY NIACT IMMEDIATE
TELEGRAMS DURING THE NEXT FOUR DAYS TO MESSAGES WHICH ARE
ABSOLUTELY REPEAT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
LOW UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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